

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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50

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 EB-11 ACDA-19 TRSE-00 RSR-01

OMB-01 AID-20 NIC-01 /127 W  
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O 111652Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8903

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 6595

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, CU, VE, CO

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE TO RELAX SANCTIONS AGAINST  
CUBA

REF: STATE 158486

SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER VIRTUALLY COMMITTED COLOMBIA TO SUPPORT  
VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE.

1. ON RECEIPT OF REFTEL, I TELEPHONED FOREIGN MINISTER TO REQUEST  
URGENT APPOINTMENT. FOREIGN MINISTER CAME ON LINE AND I EXPLAINED  
NATURE OF REQUEST. HE STATED HE COULD NOT DISCUSS THIS WITH ME  
UNTIL HE HAD TALKED TO PRESIDENT PASTRANA AND SAID HE WOULD GIVE  
ME AN APPOINTMENT EARLY NEXT WEEK PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR  
VENEZUELA AUGUST 14.

2. NEVERTHELESS I SOUGHT OUT FOREIGN MINISTER AT THE ECUADORIAN  
NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION EVENING OF AUGUST 9, AND AFTER A FEW  
PRELIMINARY REMARKS PUT THE QUESTION TO HIM AGAIN. AT FIRST  
HE TOOK EVASIVE ACTION STATING HE HAD NOT SEEN THE TEXT AND  
THEREFORE COULD NOT COMMENT ON IT. I ASKED HIM TO ASSUME THE  
TEXT WAS QUOTE VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL END QUOTE TO THE VENEZUELAN  
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PROPOSAL OF JUNE. IN THAT CASE, HE RESPONDED, COLOMBIA WOULD

IN ALL PROBABILITY SUPPORT THE VENEZUELAN PROPOSAL. I THEN POINTED OUT THE JURIDICAL QUESTION EMPHASIZING THE COSTA RICAN POSITION WHICH HE WAVED ASIDE AND STATED THAT GIVEN THE RECENT ESTABLISHMENT OF MOST CORDIAL PERSONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PRESIDENTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES AND THE OTHER OBJECTIVES COLOMBIA HAD IN ITS RELATIONS WITH VENEZUELA THAT IT WOULD BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE AT THIS STAGE TO ENVISION COLOMBIA ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE FENCE FROM VENEZUELA. AS THIS WAS NOT AN APPROPRIATE SITE TO PURSUE THE SUBJECT AT ANY GREAT LENGTH AND AS OTHERS WERE PRESSING FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S ATTENTION I ONLY HAD TIME FOR ONE MORE QUESTION: QUOTE SUPPOSE THAT THE VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE COULD NOT COMMAND SUFFICIENT VOTES TO CARRY, WHAT WOULD COLOMBIA DO? END QUOTE. THE FOREIGN MINISTER REPLIED THAT IN SUCH AN EVENTUALITY THE ENTIRE APPROACH WOULD REQUIRE RECONSIDERATION.

3. EARLIER IN THE EVENING I SPOKE WITH THE VENEZUELAN AMB QUEVEDO AND WITH CARLOS BORDA THE SECOND MAN IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TOLD ME HE HAD RECEIVED NO INSTRUCTIONS TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THAT AS FAR AS HE KNEW COLOMBIA HAD TAKEN NO POSITION.

4. BORDA STATED THAT ALL THE POSITION PAPERS PREPARATORY TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO VENEZUELA HAD GONE THROUGH HIM AND THAT THE SUBJECT OF CUBA HAD NOT BEEN TREATED. HE ADDED HOWEVER THAT ALTHOUGH HE WAS PERSONALLY VERY MUCH AGAINST THE INITIATIVE HE BELIEVED THAT COLOMBIA WOULD VOTE WITH VENEZUELA ON THIS ISSUE FOR REASONS OF BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS. HE STATED HIS OPINION THAT THE ONLY POSSIBILITY OF SUCCESS WAS TO CONVINCE THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS OF THE SOUNDNESS OF THE COSTA RICAN POSITION. BORDA EMPHASIZED HIS BELIEF THAT ALTHOUGH COLOMBIA WOULD VOTE WITH VENEZUELA ON LIBERTY OF ACTION, COLOMBIA ITSELF WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE CUBA DURING THE PASTRANA ADMINISTRATION.  
WHITE

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